

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 FRB-03 OMB-01

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R 121954Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5605

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CIEC

SUBJECT: PEREZ GUERRERO VIEWS ON CIEC

REF: CARACAS 13321 NOTAL

SUMMARY

IN INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR PEREZ GUERRERO SUGGESTED THAT WITH POSITIVE GESTURE FROM US, THERE MIGHT BE VALID REASONS FOR EXTENDING CIEC BEYOND THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL IN ORDER TO GIVE THE INCOMING CARTER ADMINISTRATION AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO NOVEMBER 10 TO SEEK HIS VIEWS ON CIEC DEVELOPMENTS. PG DEALT ONLY BRIEFLY WITH CIEC PROGRESS TO DATE. HE SAID "CONSTRUCTIVE" RESULTS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED, BUT CIEC HAS NOT
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YET DETERMINED BASES FOR RESOLVING IMPORTANT CIEC ISSUES.

HE BELIEVES MUCH MORE WORK WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS WILL EMERGE WHICH WILL BENEFIT ALL PARTICIPANTS.

2. AFTER THE ABOVE PERFUNCTORY REVIEW, PG SWITCHED THE SUBJECT TO THE CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES. AFTER BEING INFORMED BY THE AMBASSADOR THAT WE DO NOT YET KNOW HOW THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL VIEW CIEC ISSUES, PG INQUIRED ABOUT TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. HE COMMENTED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE THE "LAME DUCK" TYPE WHO WOULD HOLD EVERYTHING IN ABEYANCE UNTIL JANUARY 20. HE OBSERVED THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION MIGHT INDEED BE WILLING TO TAKE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON MANY CIEC ISSUES. PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER IS AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY, PG SAID, BUT WHAT HE HAS SAID SO FAR IS SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY A "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE.

3. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD TAKE TIME FOR THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND HIS ADVISERS TO INFORM THEMSELVES. THEREFORE, HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE ABLE TO COMMIT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. PEREZ GUERRERO SAID THAT HE UNDERSTAND THIS SITUATION AND SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT CIEC MIGHT BE RESUMED IN SOME WAY TO GIVE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE. WHILE CIEC CANNOT BE PROLONGED INDEFINITELY, HE THOUGHT IT REASONABLE THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTICIPANT SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO PUT ITS AFFAIRS IN ORDER.

4. PEREZ GUERRERO WARNED THAT THE NOVEMBER ROUND AND THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL MUST NOT BE CONSIDERED JUST PASSING STEPS. SOME POSITIVE GESTURE ON THE PART OF THE U.S. WOULD BE NEEDED. UNTIL NOW, HE SAID, SUCH A POSITIVE GESTURE ON OUR PART HAD BEEN LACKING. PG POINTED OUT THAT MANY CIEC ISSUES ARE CONSIDERED BIPARTISAN ISSUES IN THE U.S. HE SAID HE WILL BE CONSULTING WITH HIS CANADIAN CO-CHAIRMAN ABOUT THESE MATTERS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF WHAT THE G-8 CAN DO IN DECEMBER THAT THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION CAN ACCEPT.

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5. COMMENT-PEREZ GUERRERO WAS RESERVED IN COMMENTING ON CIEC, IN CONTRAST TO THE SHARP CRITICISM THAT EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE HEARD FROM HIM IN PAST SESSIONS OF THIS TYPE. IT SEEMS OBVIOUS TO US THAT HE IS WILLING, EVEN ANXIOUS TO EXTEND CIEC UNTIL THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION CAN BE TESTED. HE NEEDS SOME FACE-SAVING "POSITIVE GESTURE" FROM U.S. IN ORDER

TO JUSTIFY HIS SUPPORT FOR PROLONGING CIEC.
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